USA Comments -- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

October 2006 Report

CHAPTER 1.4.4.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

General Comment: Suggested syntax changes (shown in red bold and as strike though) for clarity in diction.

Article 1.4.4.1.

Introduction

Given the difficulty of establishing and maintaining **freedom from a particular *disease*** for an entire *country* ~~the status of *free country* for a particular *disease*~~, especially for *diseases* **whose entry** ~~the entry of which~~ is difficult to control ~~through measures at national boundaries~~, there may be benefits to one or more Member Countries in establishing and maintaining a *subpopulation* with a distinct *aquatic animal health status*. *Subpopulations* may be separated by natural or artificial geographical barriers or, in certain situations, by the application of appropriate management systems.

Zoning and *compartmentalisation* are procedures implemented by a country under the provisions of this chapter ~~with a view~~ to ~~defining~~ **define** *subpopulations* of distinct *aquatic animal health status* for the purpose of disease control or *international trade*. *Compartmentalisation* applies to a *subpopulation* when management practices related to biosecurity are the defining factors, while *zoning* applies when a *subpopulation* is defined on a geographical basis. In practice, spatial considerations and good management play important roles in the application of both concepts.

This chapter is to assist OIE Member Countries wishing to establish and maintain different *subpopulations*, using the principles of *compartmentalisation* and *zoning*. These principles should be applied in accordance with the measures recommended in the relevant *disease* chapter(s). This chapter also outlines a process through which trading partners may recognise such *subpopulations*. This process is best implemented by trading partners through establishing parameters and gaining agreement on the necessary measures prior to *outbreaks of disease*.

Before trade in *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal products* may occur, an *importing country* needs to be satisfied that its *aquatic animal health status* will be appropriately protected. In most cases, the import regulations developed will rely in part on judgements made about the effectiveness of sanitary procedures undertaken by the *exporting country*, both at its borders and within its *territory*.

~~As well as~~ **In addition to** contributing to the safety of *international trade*, *zoning* and

compartmentalisation may assist *disease* control or eradication within Member Countries. *Zoning* may encourage the more efficient use of resources, and *compartmentalisation* may allow the functional separation of a *subpopulation* from other domestic or wild *aquatic animals* through biosecurity measures, which a *zone* (through geographical separation) would not achieve. Following an *outbreak of disease*, *compartmentalisation* may be able to take advantage of epidemiological links among *subpopulations* or common practices relating to biosecurity, despite diverse geographical locations, to facilitate *disease* control and/or the resumption of trade.

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